

## ADRC E-Newsletter July 2019



The ADRC E-Newsletter may also be viewed as a PDF at [www.PierceADRC.org](http://www.PierceADRC.org) "News & Events."

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### **NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Aging and LTC Providers Network**

First Thursday of each month, 8 – 9 a.m. (Refreshments compliments of Spring Ridge)  
Mid-County Community Center, 10205 44<sup>th</sup> Ave E, Tacoma.

Contact [Bob Riler](#), ADR, 253-798-7384

**July 4 – No meeting**

Aug 1 – "Long Term Care Planning Resources" with Jessica Burkard, Comagine Health

#### **Health Care Providers Council of Pierce County**

Second Thursday of each month, 7:30 – 9 a.m.

Mtn. View Funeral Home, Celebration of Life Chapel, 4100 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood.

Contact [Melissa Martin](#), HCPC President, at 253-752-6870

#### **East County Providers Network**

Third Tuesday of each month, 8 a.m.

Location varies monthly

Contact [Laura Piacitelli](#), Stafford Suites, 253-862-1818

#### **Pierce County Care Transitions Collaborative (PCCTC)**

Third Thursday of each month from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m.

Brookdale Allenmore Independent Living, 2010 Union Ave., S., Tacoma

July 18 - TBA

Contact [Melissa McPherson](#) at 253-302-9500

#### **South End (King County) Coalition**

Third Wednesday of each month at 8:15 – 9:15 a.m.

July 17 – Marlatt Funeral Home, 713 Central Ave., N., Kent

Schedule of meeting locations and times at [www.secoalition.com](http://www.secoalition.com)

#### **NW Networking**

Meets Wednesdays at 11:45 a.m. in Puyallup

Contact Steph Hilfer, CayCare, 253-235-3562 or visit [Facebook page](#)

#### **West Side Senior Providers Networking Group**

Meets Third Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

University Place Library, 3609 Market Pl., W., UP

Contact [Debbie Ruvo](#) at 253-370-1947

#### **SASH Coffee Time Networking**

Meets First Wednesday 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Willow Gardens, 4502 6<sup>th</sup> St., SE, Puyallup

Meets Fourth Wednesday 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. (No Nov or Dec meeting)

Franke Tobey Jones Parlor, 5340 Bristol St., Tacoma (Watch for A-frames and balloons)

Contact [Sherry Corney](#) at 206-351-0956

## **LOCAL WA SERVICES**

### **Making the Link – Vendor Registration Open**

The annual Making the Link resource and information expo will be held on Wednesday, October 16 at the MetroParks STAR Center. Vendor registration opens July 1 on the [HCPC website](#). Early registration \$200 full table; \$150 half table before August 1. Starting August 1 registration is \$225 full table; \$175 half table. All payment due at the time of registration. Exhibitors who wish to participate with CEUs are encouraged to apply now! You will have the opportunity to have a CEU poster on your table to attract a large number of event attendees. Only select openings available. For more information about the CEU posters contact Tabitha White at [tabitha@retirementconnection.com](mailto:tabitha@retirementconnection.com).

### **Sight Connection Closes**

After 54 years of faithful service, one of the premiere Puget Sound service providers for the blind and partially sighted has closed. For several years Sight Connection has experienced increasing costs and decreasing revenue. Independent living referrals should now be directed to the Department of Services for the Blind at (800) 552-7103. As DSB does not have providers contracted yet in this area, it is unknown when those potential clients will be served. [Read the Seattle Times story.](#)

### **MS Society Partners with Sound Options**

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society has partnered with Sound Options, a Care Management and Home Care company based in Tacoma to provide case management services to people of Puget Sound living with MS. Under the agreement, the Society will refer people in need of an in-person case manager to Sound Options to help manage access to local resources on a personalized level. The agreement is part of the Society's Edward M. Dowd Personal Advocate Program which aims to increase independent living capabilities and quality of life for people affected by MS whose health and safety are compromised by limited knowledge, understanding, and/or ability to access programs and benefits.

### **Basic Skills Workshops**

In conjunction with Habitat Connects, Women Build is coordinating a [series of hands-on workshops to help women develop basic home-repair skills](#). The July workshop is all about drywall and is set for Thursday, July 11. Then we'll be learning about tile on Thursday, August 8. Workshops are female-led and no-cost. Space is limited and [reservations are required](#). All participants must be 18+. If you register and then are unable to attend, please reach out to cancel your registration.

### **Aging Out Loud**

Pierce County Human Services, in collaboration with Tacoma Older LGBT, is holding a free, full-day conference at the McGavick Conference Center on the grounds of Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood, WA on Sept 24. Ideas for successful aging will be explored through panels discussing topics such as housing, caregiving, and aging in place, geared for older LGTBQIA+ residents of Pierce County, their family members, friends, and allies. Registration information will be posted soon at [PierceCountyWA.gov/AgingOutLoud](http://PierceCountyWA.gov/AgingOutLoud).

### **PC2 Summer Newsletter Available**

Each summer Pierce County Coalition for Developmental Disabilities (PC2) produces an extensive compendium of summer activities for kids. Look at the [Summer 2019 newsletter](#) for news, information and activities.

### **Painting Season is Here**

Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful is currently looking for homes to paint and volunteers to paint them. We provide free exterior house painting for low to moderate-income homeowners. Do you know of someone in the community who could use this service or would like to volunteer? Please encourage them to apply today! [Click here to learn more or apply!](#)

### **Love Popcorn? Sponsor a Movie!**

Pierce County Aging and Disability Resources is hosting a film series on “Images of Aging.” Showings are on the second Saturday of each month through June 2020. Sponsors have their logo on promotional handbills and get a chance to address the audience before and after the film. Contact [Bob Riler](#) at 253-798-7384 for details and availability.

### **Art Therapy Helps People Living with Dementia**

It’s an exercise helping people in the middle of a very difficult time. That’s exactly what the Frye Art Museum in Seattle intended when they created a program for people living with dementia to come out and make art. Mary Jane Knecht created the program in 2010 while her mom lived with dementia. She knew the art effort could be a place where people get away from the problems they experience in their medical journey and even for a minute, just smile. [Alex Rozier reports](#). Watch the [4-minute follow-up report](#).

### **Closed Captions for Tacoma**

Do you want Closed Captions to become regular practice in all public businesses in Tacoma? The Tacoma City Council Vitality and Safety Subcommittee meets on July 11 at 4:00 p.m. to take up the issue. The Hearing, Speech and Deaf Center in Tacoma encourages interested people to come advocate for better accessibility practices that will benefit the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, as well as many others! ASL interpreters will be provided. For more information contact [Lucas Smiraldo](#), Office of Equity and Human Rights, City of Tacoma.

### **Statewide Point-in-Time Final Results**

The Washington State Department of Commerce posted final statewide results of the 2019 Point-in-Time count, an annual one-night snapshot of people experiencing homelessness. Sanctioned by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the count attempts to provide a consistent set of data from around the country on “sheltered” and “unsheltered” homelessness. [Learn more about Washington state homeless programs](#). Get the [2019 PIT count detailed results](#).

### **More About WA: Payroll Tax Is One State’s Bold Solution to Help Seniors Age At Home**

[Kaiser Health News featured WA state’s new long term care program](#). Nearly a decade after federal officials discarded a provision in the Affordable Care Act that would have provided Americans with long-term care insurance benefits, two states – Washington and Hawaii – are experimenting with taxpayer-funded plans to help older residents remain in their homes. Washington state’s ambitious plan, signed into law in May, will employ a new 0.58% payroll tax (or “premium,” as policymakers prefer to call it) to fund a \$36,500 benefit for individuals to pay for home health care, as well as other services — from installing grab bars in the shower to respite care for family caregivers.

### **Puyallup Memory Café**

The Puyallup Library is hosting their ongoing Memory Café at the library throughout the summer. Upcoming café events are on July 26 and August 23 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at the library, 324 S. Meridian. The café features socializing, music and fun in a relaxed atmosphere perfect for those living with Alzheimer's and/or another dementia and their care partners. Adults only.

### **PC2 Legal Series Set for Fall**

Pierce County Coalition for Developmental Disabilities (PC2) has scheduled its next legal series. All sessions are held at 5:30 p.m. at the PC2 offices at 3716 Pacific Avenue, #A in Tacoma. Advanced registration is requested by calling 253-564-0707.

Oct 16 – Estate Planning for Families of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Oct 23 – Guardianships for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Oct 30 – Special Needs Trusts & ABLE Accounts

### **Diversity in the Work Place**

Pierce County places a high value on diversity equity and inclusion in our workplace. ADRC case manager Hongda Sao was one of those included in a [new Pierce county TV video](#).

### **SAIL Instructor Training**

[Stay Active and Independent for Life](#) (SAIL) is a strength, balance and fitness program for adults 65 and older. Performing exercises that improve strength, balance and fitness is the single most important activity adults can do to stay active and reduce their chances of falling. Classes are conducted by fitness, exercise science and healthcare professionals who have completed SAIL program instructor training. [Training for instructors](#) is offered Saturday, July 13 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Humana Corp. Office, 32125 32nd Ave S in Federal Way. There is also an online training especially appropriate for potential SAIL program leaders with an exercise science, healthcare, physical, occupational or recreational therapy background. [Enroll in the Pierce College online course](#).

### **Caregiving Training Center at Tacoma Visiting Angels**

HCA training, includes in-classroom: Dementia & Mental Health Level 1, hands-on Skills + 50 hours on-line. Attend HCA series, or individual classes. Held September 13, 20, 27, Oct 4, 11 at Visiting Angels office in Tacoma, 1401 S. Union. Contact HCA Instructor: [Marian](#) at 253-537-3700.

### **Washington Approved for Modified 'Subscription model' for Prescription Drug Payments**

Washington has become just the fourth state to [gain federal approval to negotiate with drug manufacturers](#) for deals that link payment for prescription drugs to the value delivered. Washington's first use of this approval will be for purchasing hepatitis C drugs, under a recently announced agreement with drug manufacturer AbbVie. Under what is often called a "modified subscription model," Washington will negotiate with AbbVie to pay a set price for a course of treatment up to a maximum expenditure, after which the manufacturer will provide the drugs for a nominal amount. Washington may use this same model for other drugs in the future, or could do a different model depending on negotiation with a drug manufacturer.

### **Dash & Dine**

The Cottages at University Place is hosting a fundraiser to benefit the Walk to End Alzheimer's. Tacos and Margaritas are on us, and you donate to a great cause for each box of tacos you take home. Pre-order your dinner the day before and you can donate with cash or online at the time of pick up. To pre-order

call 253-301-3817. Held July 23 at the Cottages at University Place, 5417 64th St. W., University Place. Pick Up Time: 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

## **SCAMS OF THE MONTH**

### **Getting Unwanted Phone Calls? It Could Be Scammers Calling.**

Scammers can use the internet to make calls from all over the world. They don't care if you're on the National Do Not Call Registry. That's why your best defense against unwanted calls is call blocking. Learn how to block unwanted calls at [ftc.gov/calls](http://ftc.gov/calls). (Source: FTC)

### **Tacoma Power Isn't Calling**

A number of Tacoma residents have received scam robo calls in June. The phone screen shows Tacoma Power and their correct phone number, but the message states power will be shut off in 30 minutes due to non-payment on account. They give a toll-free number to call but it is not the toll-free number on the website. Once again, never trust callers like this. Utility providers always send numerous mailings if there is a problem with your account. They don't cold-call. When in doubt about a potential scam call, call the ADRC at 253-798-4600. (Source: Sound Outreach)

### **Keys to Avoiding Home Rental Scams**

Need more space than an apartment, condo or townhouse can offer, but not ready to buy? A single-family home rental may fit the bill. But not all home rental listings are legit, so here are some tip-offs and tools to help you avoid a rental scam. [Read more](#). (Source: FTC)

## **LOCAL HAPPENINGS** (ADRC events highlighted in color)

### **July 2 - Aging Smart**

Elder law attorney Breanna Cross-Bean will be covering estate probate, wills, trusts, durable power of attorney, guardianship services and if time permits touching on long-term care planning. Held at 4:30 p.m. at Harbor Place Theater Room - 1016 29th Street NW, Gig Harbor. Free to the public. Seating is limited. Please RSVP to Julie at 253-732-3292.

### **July 10 – Adult CPR/1st Aid & AED**

This 4 hour training includes videos with hands-on skills in CPR, 1st Aid and AED use. Upon successful completion each student receives an EMS card which is good for 2 years. The training is for adults (does not include infant and child CPR). All are welcome to attend. Held 1 to 5 p.m. at Visiting Angels in Tacoma at 1401 S Union Avenue. Contact HCA Instructor: [Marian](#) at 253-537-3700.

### **July 10 – DDA Service Overview Night**

DDA staff will review eligibility, assessments and waiver service programs available for individuals with developmental disabilities through the Developmental Disabilities Administration. Held at 5:30p.m. at the Gig Harbor Library, 4424 Point Fosdick Drive. RSVP to [info@pc2online.org](mailto:info@pc2online.org).

### **July 13 – Images of Aging: About Schmidt**

Pierce County ADRC begins a series of films on "Images of Aging" with this Jack Nicholson film. Warren Schmidt retires from his job with a life insurance company in Omaha, Nebraska. After a retirement dinner and the sudden death of his wife, Schmidt finds it hard to adjust to his new life, feeling

completely useless. He is overcome by loneliness. He decides to take a journey alone in his new RV and begins to question what he has accomplished in life, lamenting that he will soon be dead, that his life has made no difference to anyone, and that eventually it will be as if he has never existed at all. Held at the Grand Cinema, 606 Fawcett Ave in Tacoma. Doors open at 10:30 a.m.; film shows at 10:45 a.m. Free tickets required at <https://bpt.me/4276723> or call the Pierce County ADRC at 253-7980-4600.

### **July 13 – Tacoma Pride**

Tacoma Pride 2019 is taking place from noon to 6:00 p.m. at Pacific Avenue, between S. 9th Street & S. 7th Street. The event is free and open to the public, and includes a performance stage, dance tent, local vendors, beer garden, and a kids zone, with ASL interpreting at the main stage. More info online at <http://tacomapride.org/event/tacoma-pride-2019/>.

### **July 14 – Youth Transition Summer Workshop**

A workshop for your people age 16-21 with disabilities who are planning to go to college, get a job and live independently in the community in the future. Room and board provided and transportation will be coordinated. Youth with 504 plans encouraged to apply. Interested individuals must call to request an application before June 8 at 253-582-1253, ext 103 or [korinah@cfisouth.org](mailto:korinah@cfisouth.org). Held at the Univ. of Puget Sound, 1500 N. Warner Street in Tacoma.

### **July 16 – 2019 Optimum Life Continuing Education Series**

“Understanding Your Customer: Exceeding Expectations.” This recorded webcast series features a different topic each month and provides 1.0 CE credit (one hour) per session for nurses, social workers, case managers and nursing home administrators. Participants can also have their questions answered by content experts. Held at 4:30 p.m. at Brookdale Independent Living, 2010 S. Union Avenue in Tacoma. Contact [Jenni Austin](#) or [Melissa Martin](#) for details or call 253-759-7770 or 253-752-6870.

### **July 17 – DDA Service Overview Night**

See July 10 for event details. Held at 5:30p.m. at the Puyallup Public Library, 324 S. Meridian. RSVP to [info@pc2online.org](mailto:info@pc2online.org).

### **July 24 – DDA Service Overview Night**

See July 10 for event details. Held at 5:30p.m. at TACID, 6315 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Street in Tacoma. RSVP to [info@pc2online.org](mailto:info@pc2online.org).

### **July 25 – Franke Tobey Jones Grand Opening**

Franke Tobey Jones celebrates the new Care Center with skilled nursing and memory care as well as the new independent living apartment building – Bristol View. Event includes Care Center tours. Held at 10:30 a.m. Call 253-752-6621 for details.

### **July 31 – DDA Service Overview Night**

See July 10 for event details. Held at 5:30p.m. at the Graham Library, 9202 224<sup>th</sup> Street E. RSVP to [info@pc2online.org](mailto:info@pc2online.org).

### **Aug 6 – National Night Out**

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Held at many locations in Pierce County and throughout the country. [Get details.](#)

### **Aug 7 – Pierce County Cancer Survivorship Conference**

It's time to register for this year's conference! Sessions throughout the day will explore an array of topics supporting cancer fighters and survivors and offer inspirational stories about the physical, mental and spiritual aspects of the journey. Thanks to the generous sponsors and exhibitors, this conference is free to all attendees but registration is required. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. Conference held 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. [Register online.](#) Want to do more to help? Consider volunteering at this year's event as we can always use help! To view available volunteer positions, and updated conference information, please [visit our website.](#)

### **Aug 10 – Images of Aging: The Age of Adaline**

The 2015 film is a mix of drama, science fiction and fantasy as it explores the meaning of life without aging and the choices that need to be made to continue ageless living. The movie focuses on a woman who miraculously remains 29 years old for almost eight decades. She lives a lonely existence, cut off from family and friends and never allowing herself to get close to anyone who might reveal her secret. But a chance encounter with charismatic figure reignites her passion for life, for relationship and romance. Life changes immediately. Held at the Grand Cinema, 606 Fawcett Ave in Tacoma. Doors open at 10:30 a.m.; film shows at 10:45 a.m. Advance tickets required and available online July 14 or call the Pierce County ADRC at 253-7980-4600.

### **Sept 14 – Images of Aging: I'll See You in my Dreams**

In this vibrant, funny, and heartfelt film, a widow and former songstress discovers that life can begin anew at any age. With the support of three loyal girlfriends, Carol decides to embrace the world, embarking on an unlikely friendship with her pool maintenance man, pursuing a new love interest, and reconnecting with her daughter. Rated PG-13 for sexual material, drug use and brief strong language. Held at the Grand Cinema, 606 Fawcett Ave in Tacoma. Doors open at 10:30 a.m.; film shows at 10:45 a.m. Advance tickets required and available online August 11 or call the Pierce County ADRC at 253-7980-4600.

### **Sept 24 – Aging Out Loud**

Save the date. Pierce County Human Services, in collaboration with Tacoma Older LGBT, is holding a free, full-day conference at the McGavick Conference Center on the grounds of Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood, WA. Ideas for successful aging will be explored through panels discussing topics such as housing, caregiving, and aging in place, geared for older LGTBQIA+ residents of Pierce County, their family members, friends, and allies. Registration information will be posted soon at [www.PierceCountyWA.gov/AgingOutLoud](http://www.PierceCountyWA.gov/AgingOutLoud).

### **Sept 24 – Fall Prevention Day**

Save the date. The Pierce County Fall Prevention Coalition hosts this special event with the focus on fall prevention and home safety. Held 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Morgan Family YMCA, 1002 S. Pearl Street in Tacoma. Free.

### **Oct 17 – Making the Link**

Resource and services expo held 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the MetroPark Star Center. Save the date.

### **Oct 21 – Social Security Retirement 2020**

If you are soon to celebrate your 62 birthday . . . if you are planning on claiming your Social Security benefits soon . . . if you are debating about delaying your benefits . . . if you want to see your benefits cut by 25% . . . if you want to make your Social Security benefits increase by 32% . . . you want to know more about Social Security . . . if you are receiving your Social Security benefits but have questions . . . if you want to understand the ins and outs of Medicare . . . if you have questions about the future of SSA and Medicare . . . then join us for Social Security Retirement 2020. Held 4:00-5:30 p.m. Location TBA. Sponsored by Pierce County Aging and Disability Resources and the Social Security Administration. For more information call the Aging & Disability Resource Center at 253-798-4600.

### **Oct 30 – Resilience in the Latino Community**

Held at the Hilton Seattle Airport & Conference Center, 17620 International Blvd, Seatac. Sponsored by SeaMar Community Health Centers. [Registration is now open online.](#)

### **Nov 9 – Legacy of Love**

2019 African American Caregivers Forum. This unique, culturally-focused event draws family caregivers from throughout the Pacific Northwest. Held 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites in Tukwila. [Information and pre-registration online](#) or call 206-706-7084.

### **Q&A of the Month**

**Question:** I'm going to claim my Social Security benefits soon. For budgeting purposes, can I ask to be paid on a specific day or is there a way to figure out when I will be paid?

**Answer:** It's certainly good to be planning ahead like this. You can't ask to receive your Social Security benefit on a specific day. But in general here's how they pay benefits

- If you were born on the 1<sup>st</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, you'll be paid on the second Wednesday of the month;
- If you were born on the 11<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month, you'll be paid on the third Wednesday of the month; and
- If you were born after the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month, you'll be paid on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

As you would expect there are many exceptions. Children and spouses who receive benefits based on someone else's work record will be paid on the same day as the primary beneficiary. Others include SSI recipients, some dual eligible people, folks who live out of country and older beneficiaries.

### **NATIONALLY**

#### **Now Available: 2018 Profile of Older Americans**

The Profile of Older Americans is an annual summary of critical statistics related to the older population in the United States. Relying primarily on data offered by the U.S. Census Bureau, the Profile illustrates the shifting demographics of Americans age 65 and older. It includes key topic areas such as income, living arrangements, education, health, and caregiving. The 2018 Profile also incorporates a new special section on emergency and disaster preparedness. [View/download the 2018 Profile.](#) Also available on this page are the 2018 data tables (Excel) and reports from previous years. (Source: ACL)



### **Looking Toward Medicare's Future**

The Medicare Rights Center is celebrating 30 years of getting Medicare right. MRC policy goals are informed by 30 years of serving people with Medicare on their national helpline and through educational programs. Thinking ahead to the next 30 years, it's critically important to broadly modernize benefits in both Original Medicare and private Medicare plans. At the same time, it's essential to pursue changes that improve how 60+ million people with Medicare navigate their coverage on a daily basis. [Here are Medicare Rights' evolving 30 policy goals for Medicare's future](#). (Source: MRC)

### **Mini-Biographies – Not a Bad Idea from the VA**

Some Veterans Affairs hospitals around the country use writers to [record patients' life stories](#), then place a short biography in each vet's medical record. The My Life, My Story program gives clinicians another way to get to know their patients. (Source: KHN)

### **Commonly Prescribed Drugs Tied to Higher Dementia Risk**

Scientists have long found a possible link between [anticholinergic drugs and an increased risk of dementia](#). A study published in the journal [JAMA Internal Medicine](#) suggests that the link is strongest for certain classes of anticholinergic drugs -- particularly antidepressants such as paroxetine or amitriptyline, bladder antimuscarinics such as oxybutynin or tolterodine, antipsychotics such as chlorpromazine or olanzapine and antiepileptic drugs such as oxcarbazepine or carbamazepine. Researchers wrote in the study that “there was nearly a 50% increased odds of dementia” associated with a total anticholinergic exposure of more than 1,095 daily doses within a 10-year period, which is equivalent to an older adult taking a strong [anticholinergic medication daily for at least three years](#), compared with no exposure. (Source: CNN)

### **Financial Insecurity a Major Concern for Women Approaching Retirement**

Almost 60% of Americans aged 60 and over are concerned that health care costs and 43% are concerned that prescription drug costs are outpacing retirement savings, according to a new NCOA/Ipsos survey. The national survey also finds that women are even more concerned than men about these costs and the potential impact on their family. [Explore the results](#). (Source: NCOA)

### **Intimacy and Aging: Issues and Answers for Long Term Care and Home Care**

Let's get real and discuss some of the pressing issues that caregivers and staff face regarding sexuality and intimacy in the elderly with a diagnosis of Dementia. The topic is rarely discussed and very little training is provided in the area of sexuality and intimacy. This leaves staff and caregivers ill prepared to handle sensitive situations. The 24-minute video presentation is designed to educate families, front-line staff, health care professionals, state agency staff, association staff, care givers, management company staff and educators who work in all aspects of health care where elder care is provided or supported. Produced by the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners. Available only on USB. To order visit [www.nccdp.org](http://www.nccdp.org). (Source: NCCDP)

### **Medicare Coverage Jeopardized by Social Security Processing Error**

Medicare beneficiaries can elect to have their Medicare Part D premiums and Medicare Advantage premiums automatically deducted from their Social Security checks. In the beginning of 2019 the Social Security Administration failed to properly withhold these premiums or make payments to the plans for thousands of Medicare beneficiaries. While the issue has been resolved, beneficiaries continue to face

the risk of coverage loss and confusion. See this [CMS factsheet](#) for additional information. (Source: Justice in Aging)

### **Best Buy Focuses on Aging Population**

Best Buy recently acquired GreatCall—a provider of connected health and personal emergency response services to the older adult population. This acquisition helps Best Buy with its new strategy, “Best Buy 2020: Building the New Blue”, in which they have focused on “addressing the growing needs of the aging population with the help of technology products and services.” GreatCall makes mobile phones and wearable devices that connect the user to operators who can connect the user to family caregivers, provide concierge services, or dispatch emergency personnel. They also offer connected health and safety services, including daily medication monitoring. (Source: MyMinka.com)

### **In Secret, Seniors Discuss ‘Rational Suicide’**

Running counter to the efforts of suicide prevention experts and many religious and social norms, some seniors are quietly exploring the option of turning to suicide when they feel they've lived long enough. [Read the Kaiser Health News story.](#) (Source: KHN)

### **PLAN AHEAD (Always 2 months ahead) – August 2019**

ADHD, Atrial Fibrillation, Blood Cancer Awareness, Cholesterol Education, Hunger, Intergeneration, Library Card Sign-up, Mold Awareness, Guide Dog, Food Safety, Ovarian Cancer, Preparedness, Skin Care Awareness, Suicide Prevention, Self-care Awareness, Hispanic Heritage and Alzheimer’s Month; Nutrition (1-7), Assisted Living (8-14), Balance Awareness ( 15-21), Rehabilitation (15-21), Pollution Prevention (8-15), Deaf Dog Awareness (22-28), Register to Vote (22-28), Hearing Aid Awareness (22-28) and Chimney Safety (29-10/5) Weeks; Labor (2), Dog Walker Appreciation (6), Food Bank (6), Grandparents (8), Suicide Prevention (10), Report Medicare Fraud (12), LGBT Center Awareness (15), Respect for the Aged (16), Citizenship (17), Concussion Awareness(20), Alzheimer’s (21), Family (23), Sign Languages (23) and Pharmacists (25) Days.

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This information is provided as a service of the Pierce County Aging & Disability Resource Center and is intended for sharing throughout the county. To receive or discontinue this e-newsletter, please contact Bob Riler at (253) 798-7384 or [bob.riler@piercecountywa.gov](mailto:bob.riler@piercecountywa.gov).